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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session

Observer status for the East African Community in the General Assembly

Letter dated 4 September 2003 from the representatives of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of our respective Governments, we have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly of an additional item, entitled "Observer status for the East African Community in the General Assembly".

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, kindly find attached an explanatory memorandum on the matter (see annex).

(*Signed*) Judith **Mbula Bahemuka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya

(*Signed*) Francis K. **Butagira**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda

(*Signed*) Christine **Kapalata**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the United Republic of Tanzania

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Annex to the letter dated 4 September 2003 from the representatives of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum under rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

The East African Community is a regional economic organization comprising the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uganda. It was established by the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, which was signed on 30 November 1999 and came into force on 7 July 2000. This Treaty was registered and deposited with the United Nations on 22 August 2000 (under United Nations Treaty Registration No. 37437).

The East African Community aims at widening and deepening cooperation among the partner States in, among other areas, political, economic, social, legal and judicial affairs for their mutual benefit. This will be achieved through the establishment of a Customs Union and a Common Market, as transitional stages to full integration, subsequently of a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation.

Under the provisions of the Treaty, the East African Community is obliged to foster cooperative arrangements with other regional and international organizations, whose activities have a bearing on the objectives of the Community. The Partner States are required to accord special importance to cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies and with other international organizations and bilateral and multilateral development partners interested in the objectives of the Community.

The principal organs of the East African Community are:

(1) The Summit;

(2) The Council;

(3) The Coordination Committee;

(4) The East African Community Court of Justice;

(5) The East African Legislative Assembly;

(6) The Secretariat.

The framework of cooperation in advancing its main objectives is outlined in the various chapters of the Treaty as follows:

- Trade, liberalization and development;
- Monetary and financial cooperation;
- Cooperation in infrastructure and services;
- Cooperation in the development of human resources, science and technology;
- Free movement of persons, labour services, right of establishment and residence;
- Agriculture and food security;

- Cooperation in environment and natural resources;
- Cooperation in tourism and wildlife management;
- Cooperation in health, social and cultural activities;
- Enhancing the role of women in business and development;
- Cooperation in investment and industrial development;
- Cooperation in standardization and quality assurance;
- Cooperation in political matters;
- Legal and judicial affairs;
- Cooperation in other fields such as:

The private sector and civil society:

(a) Relations with other regional and international organizations and development partners;

(b) Financial provisions.

As such, the main objectives of the East African Community are consistent with the objectives of the United Nations as contained in its Charter. It is in this respect that the East African Community seeks formal accreditation with the United Nations. It is hoped that such accreditation will enable the Community to be recognized as a regional economic organization for purposes of:

(a) Appropriately contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations;

(b) Relating its relevant programmes to global projects and programmes;

(c) Seeking appropriate support from the United Nations organizations and agencies;

(d) Establishing and consolidating cooperation with other regional economic, political, humanitarian and social organizations in tackling global problems and challenges to development and the maintenance of peace and stability.

In all its work, the East African Community strongly believes that it is desirable to establish and consolidate links with the United Nations and that observer status in the General Assembly would be mutually beneficial.

Consequently, pursuant to a decision taken by the East African Community, we hereby request that the East African Community be granted observer status in the General Assembly.